

Riverside Bridge
Weaver Pike over South Fork Holston River
Bluff City Vicinity
Sullivan County
Tennessee

HAER No. TN-7

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82-BLUFF
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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RIVERSIDE BRIDGE

HAER No. TN-7

Location: Weaver Pike over South Fork Holston River,
Bluff City vicinity, Sullivan County, Tennessee

UTM: 16.392915.4038370
Quad: Keensburg (207 NW)

Date of Construction: 1913

Builder/Contractor: Converse Bridge Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee

Present Owner: Sullivan County

Present Use: Scheduled for demolition

Significance: The Riverside Bridge is significant as a
representative Pratt through truss and built by
the Converse Bridge Company.

The Riverside Bridge is 396 feet in length and contains three truss spans and six steel I-beam spans. The truss spans are six-panel Pratt through trusses, each 100 feet in length. The out-to-out measurement is 14.3 feet, and the curb-to-curb width is 11.3 feet. The height of the trusses from top to bottom chord is 17 feet. The vertical clearance is 13 feet. The deck is timber with asphalt overlay.

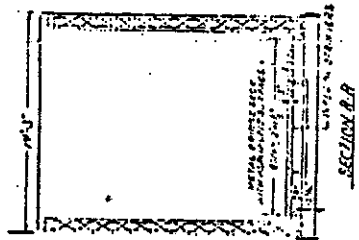
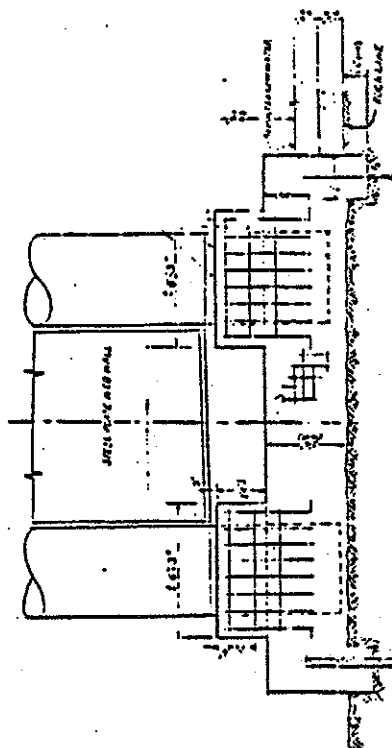
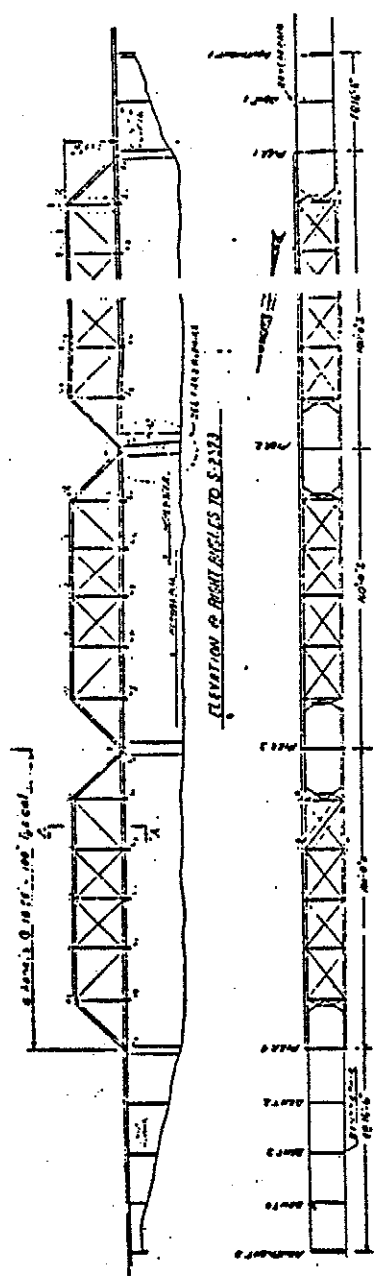
Most of the features of the bridge are representative in nature. The top chords and end posts are channels with stay plates. The vertical members in compression are paired angles with double lacing. The vertical members in tension (hip verticals) are paired rectilinear eyebars. The diagonals are paired rectilinear eyebars, and the counters are cylindrical tie rods. Also, the bottom chord is composed of paired eyebars. All joints are pin-connected with cotter pins.

The substructure includes two concrete abutments, three steel encased concrete piers, and six steel bents.

As indicated by a bridge plate, the Riverside Bridge was erected in 1913 by the Converse Bridge Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Converse Bridge Company was formed in Chattanooga by W. H. Converse in the early 1890s. An Ohio native, Converse worked in Chattanooga for a few years as an agent for the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. He then went into business as a general bridge builder around 1890 and incorporated his firm as the Converse Bridge Company in 1893. The firm built numerous bridges in Tennessee, many of which remain. In 1914, it was reorganized as the Converse Bridge and Steel Company with Dethic Hewitt Wood as president. In 1951, the Converse firm was purchased by the Sisken Steel and Supply Company of Chattanooga and then sold to the Mississippi Valley Structural Steel Company in 1957. The firm then operated as the Converse Division of the Mississippi Valley. After the 1930s, this firm primarily provided structural steel for buildings rather than for bridges.

Transmitted by:

Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1984, from data compiled by
Martha Carver, Tennessee Department of
Transportation, 1983



Riverside Bridge over the South Fork
of the Holston River, Sullivan County

Bridge 82-C539-0.01